



Rocky Mountain Animal Defense

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6595 '99 AUG 19 AIO 08

August 14, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Dockets 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

We are writing today to express our strong support for regulations prohibiting the forced molting of hens in egg production.

We have an extensive history with animal agriculture issues and particularly egg production. We have worked with the manager of Boulder Valley Poultry Farms in Boulder, Colorado, to improve conditions at its now-defunct 400,000-hen facility. This experience, which required substantial research on our part, has given us much knowledge about and insight into intensive egg production.

Certainly one of the most inhumane practices in this industry is the forced molting of hens. It is no wonder that this practice results, as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service states, in an increased risk to public health, specifically through increased shedding of *Salmonella enteritidis*.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has the authority and the responsibility to ban forced molting of hens. This, in the interest of mitigating the danger of infectious disease in hens, eggs, and humans who consume eggs.

Sincerely,

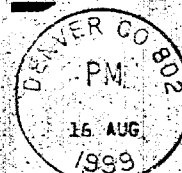
David Crawford, President

96P-0418

C292



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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ C 292

See File Number: 97P-0197/ C 293
96P-0418/ C 292